

figure handheld computer **200** to correlate inputs via sensor **230**. For example, specific inputs may be configured to start certain applications. Further, sensor **230** may be configured for the input of data, by configuring the sensor to recognize different motions as different letters or numbers, e.g., as a user places portions of hand **240** upon sensor **230**, handheld computer **200** may be configured to detect the location of hand **240**. Thereafter, handheld computer **200** may sense the movement and force applied by hand **240** in different directions. The information gathered from these inputs by hand **240** may be used to control navigation through information on handheld computer **200**.

**[0026]** In an exemplary embodiment, a particular sequence of movements and forces can be used to configure an unlock security feature. For example, a user may train the device to recognize a sequence of motions before the user is able to access the device or specific information on the device.

**[0027]** A device utilizing a flexible and/or pliable sensor, such as sensors **170**, **230**, and **330** may provide a better user experience over conventional devices. The device may be easier to use, as well as more intuitive to a user. Further, such sensors may provide the device with a comfortable, soft, and pliable feel.

**[0028]** While the detailed drawings, specific examples and particular formulations and materials given described preferred exemplary embodiments, they serve the purpose of illustration only. The inventions disclosed are not limited to the specific forms shown. For example, the methods may be performed in any of a variety of sequence of steps. The hardware and software configurations shown and described may defer depending on the chosen performance characteristics and physical characteristics of the computing devices. For example, the type of computing device, communications bus, or processor used may differ. The systems and methods depicted and described are not limited to the precise details and conditions disclosed. Furthermore, other substitutions, modifications, changes, and omissions may be made in the design, operating conditions, and arrangement of the exemplary embodiments without departing from the scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

1. (canceled)
2. A mobile computing device, comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a touch screen display;
  - a sensor; and
  - a processor, coupled to the touch screen display and the sensor;
 wherein the sensor is configured to receive an input via the touch screen display and provide tactile feedback.
3. The mobile computing device of claim 2, wherein the mobile computing device is a handheld device.
4. The mobile computing device of claim 2, further comprising cellular telephone electronics.
5. The mobile computing device of claim 2, wherein the sensor is incorporated into the touch screen display.
6. The mobile computing device of claim 2, wherein the sensor sends signals to the processor based on the input.

7. The mobile computing device of claim 2, wherein the tactile feed back is a protrusion formed in the sensor.

8. The mobile computing device of claim 2, wherein the protrusion is provided at a location based in the location of the input on the touch screen display.

9. A cellular telephone comprising:

- a housing;
- a processor including cellular telephone electronics and disposed within the housing; and
- a sensor configured to provide signals to the processor based on a force applied to the sensor by a user and to provide tactile feedback to the user in response to the force.

10. The cellular telephone of claim 9, further comprising a touch screen.

11. The cellular telephone of claim 10, wherein the sensor is coupled to the touch screen.

12. The cellular telephone of claim 11, wherein the tactile feedback is a protrusion formed in the sensor.

13. The cellular telephone of claim 9, further comprising a personal information manager application.

14. The cellular telephone of claim 9, wherein the sensor is incorporated into the housing.

15. The cellular telephone of claim 9, wherein the tactile feedback is a protrusion formed in a location determined based in the location of the force.

16. A mobile computing device, comprising:

- a housing;
  - computing electronics;
  - a display coupled to the computing electronics and the housing; and
  - a force sensor coupled to the computing electronics and at least a portion of the surface of the housing to define an input device for the portable computer;
- wherein the force sensor is configured to deform in response to a tactile input, and provide inputs to the computing electronics based on the location of the tactile input on the force sensor; and
- wherein the computing electronics are configured to provide an alphanumeric character on the display in response to the tactile input.

17. The mobile computing device of claim 16, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a button in response to the tactile input.

18. The mobile computing device of claim 16, wherein the display is configured to provide a plurality of visual user interfaces, and the processor is configured to permit a user to navigate through the plurality of visual user interfaces by the user providing the tactile input.

19. The mobile computing device of claim 16, wherein the computing electronics comprise cellular telephone electronics.

20. The mobile computing device of claim 16, wherein the mobile computing device is a handheld computer.

21. The mobile computing device of claim 20, wherein the display is a touch screen display.

\* \* \* \* \*